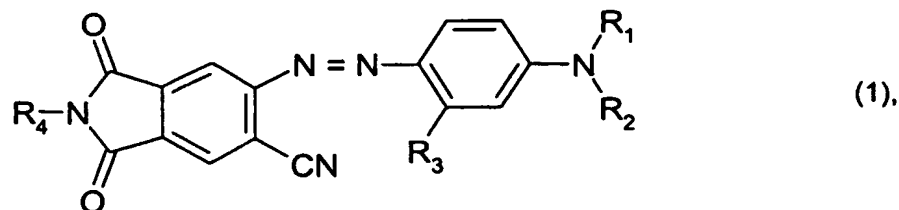


What is claimed is:

1. A dye of formula



wherein R_1 is 2-methoxyethyl, 2-ethoxyethyl or 2-(2-ethoxyethoxy)ethyl,

R_2 is C_1 - C_6 alkyl which is unsubstituted or substituted by one or more hydroxy groups, halogen atoms, C_1 - C_4 alkoxy groups, C_2 - C_6 alkoxyalkoxy groups, C_1 - C_4 alkyl-COO- groups or C_1 - C_4 alkyl-OCO- groups,

R_3 is methyl, hydroxy, halogen, $-NH-SO_2-R_5$ or $-NH-CO-R_6$, wherein R_5 is methyl or ethyl and R_6 is methyl, ethyl, methoxymethyl or 2-methoxyethyl, and

R_4 is ethyl or n-propyl.

2. A dye according to claim 1, wherein R_1 and R_2 are the same.

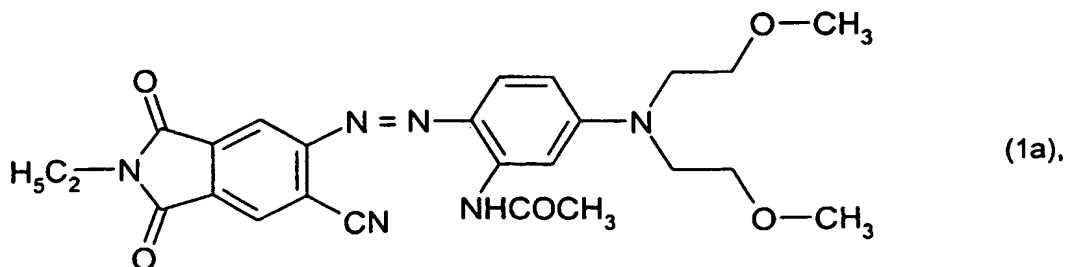
3. A dye according to either claim 1 or claim 2, wherein R_1 is 2-methoxyethyl.

4. A dye according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein R_3 is $-NH-CO-R_6$.

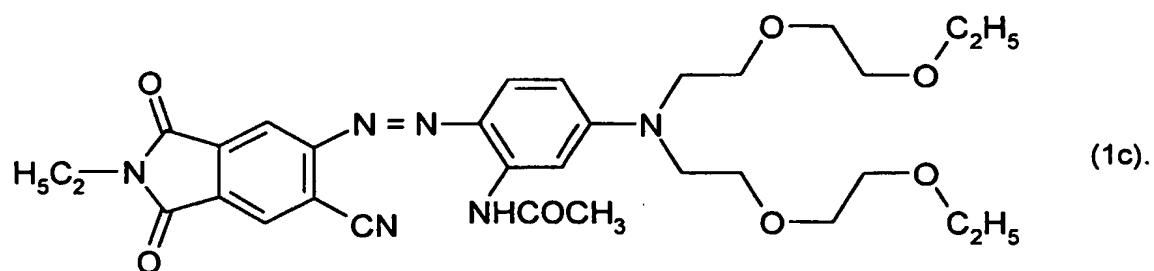
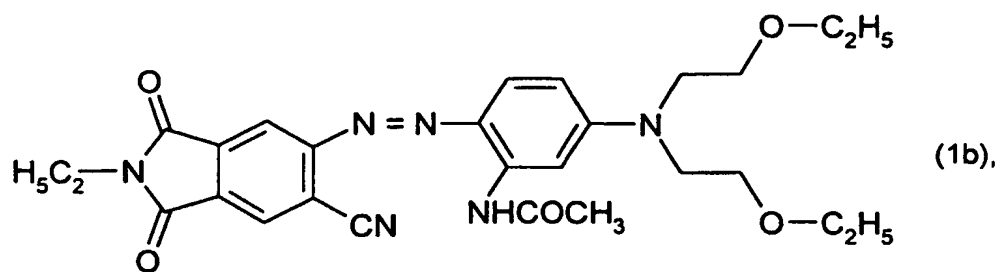
5. A dye according to claim 4, wherein R_6 is methyl.

6. A dye according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein R_4 is ethyl.

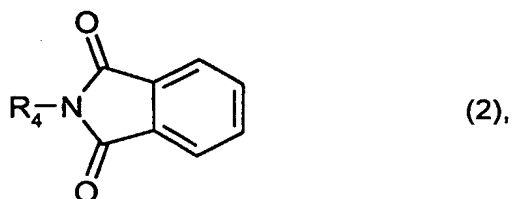
7. A dye of formula (1a), (1b) or (1c) according to claim 1



- 15 -

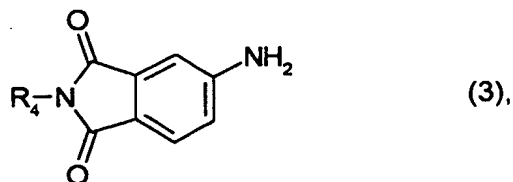


8. A process for the preparation of a dye of formula (1) according to claim 1, in which a phthalimide of formula

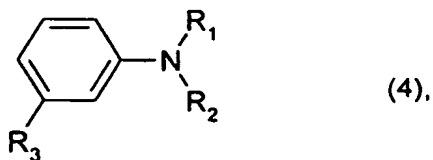


wherein R_4 is as defined in claim 1,

is nitrated in the acidic range, the resulting nitro compound is then alkylated and converted by means of reductive treatment into an intermediate of formula



the intermediate of formula (3) is monohalogenated in an acidic medium and then diazotised. coupled to a compound of formula (4)



- 16 -

wherein R_1 , R_2 and R_3 are as defined in claim 1, and then the halogen substituent is replaced by cyano.

9. A dye mixture comprising at least two structurally different dyes of formula (1) according to claim 1.

10. A method of dyeing or printing a semi-synthetic or synthetic hydrophobic fibre material, in which a dye of formula (1) according to claim 1 or a dye mixture according to claim 9 is applied to the mentioned material or incorporated therein.

11. Use of a dye of formula (1) according to claim 1 in the dyeing or printing of a semi-synthetic or, especially, synthetic hydrophobic fibre material, more especially a textile material.

12. A semi-synthetic or, especially, synthetic hydrophobic fibre material, more especially a textile material, dyed or printed by the process according to claim 10.